

Message Text

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12

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W

----- 107156

O R 121018Z MAR 76

FM AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7788

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

USMISSION USUN NY

C O N F I D E N T I A L JERUSALEM 0351

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, MOPS, LE, UN

SUBJ: INCREASED PLA PRESENCE IN SOUTHERN LEBANON

1. RELIABLE UNTSO SOURCE SAYS UN CHIEF COORDINATOR'S OFFICE HAS EVIDENCE THAT LEBANESE ARMY REBEL KHATIB IS COOPERATING CLOSELY WITH PALESTINE LIBERATION ARMY (PLA). ACCORDING TO UN, KHATIB AFTER TAKING OVER MILITARY INSTALLATIONS AT FOLLOWING FOUR LOCATIONS, HAS PROMPTLY TURNED THEM OVER TO PLA. SITES ARE: (A) RACHAIYA EL FOUKHAR; (B) MARJAYOUN; (C) KHIAM, AND (D) ARNAOUN. IN TWO OF THEM. MARJAYOUN AND KHIAM, THERE WAS FIGHTING.

2. WHEN PRESSED TO HOW UN COULD BE CERTAIN PLA INVOLVED, SOURCE STATED PLA WEARS SLIGHTLY DIFFERENT UNIFORM FROM LEBANESE ARMY AND IS ARMED WITH KALASHNIKOV'S. MOREOVER, SYRIAN REGULAR ARMY OFFICERS SERVE AS ADVISER.

.3 DURING NIGHT OF FEBRUARY 11, UN FORCED BY KHATIB SOLDIERS TO EVACUATE OP AT KHIAM.

4. UN SAYS THAT IT DOES NOT KNOW WHO IS PRESENTLY IN CHARGE
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OF LEBANESE ARMY. ALL ATTEMPTS BY 12 NOON LOCAL TIME

MARCH 12 TO COMMUNICATE WITH REGULAR LEBANESE ARMY CONTACTS
HAVE PROVED FUTILE. UN HAS IMPRESSION ISRAELIS FULLY AWARE OF
ABOVE DEVELOPMENTS.
NEWLIN

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NNN

Message Attributes

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